

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-11 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 have been amended, and claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Reference numeral "11" had not previously been used in the specification. By the foregoing amendments, this reference numeral is now used. As such, the drawing objection should be overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 2-7 to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over KATAOKA, U.S. Patent 6,342,752, in view of Admitted Prior Art, and further in view of FERGUSON, U.S. Patent 4,703,191. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Because limitations from claim 2 have now been incorporated into claim 1, this prior art rejection should be overcome. All claims in the instant application should now be in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

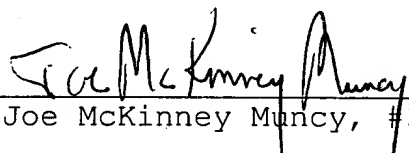
Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning this document are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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